

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aaron Grunberger on October 7, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 11-17, 19-27 and 30-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

33.(Currently Amended) A system for weight measurement in a vehicle seat, comprising:
a plurality of connecting elements;
a communications system; and
an address assignment arrangement;
wherein, for assignment of an address to one of the plurality of connecting elements:

the system is configured such that:

in a step (a), at least one bit of a potential serial number is sent across the communications system to all of the plurality of connecting elements, each of a subset of the plurality of connecting elements having a respective serial number that includes a portion that matches the at least one bit of the potential serial number;

responsively, in a step (b), the subset of the immediately preceding step (a) responds to the at least one bit, others of the connecting elements not responding; and

in a step (c), the steps (a) and (b) are repeated;

for each repeated step (a), the at least one bit includes a range of bits narrower than in addition to or alternate to the at least one bit that was sent in the immediately preceding step (a), the subset of the connecting elements being different for different ones of the repeated steps (a);

the repetition of steps (a) and (b) is performed until the subset of the last performed step (b) includes only the one of the plurality of connecting elements; ~~and~~

the address assignment arrangement is configured to assign to the one of the plurality of connecting elements an address based on the at least one bit sent in the last step (a) performed for the assignment of the address; and

at least in the initial performance of step (a), the at least one bit includes less than the entirety of the potential serial number.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system as recited in Claim 33, wherein steps (a) to (c) are repeated for assignment of addresses to others of the plurality of connecting elements until all of the plurality of connecting elements have been assigned addresses or until all potential serial numbers have been sent out.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NIMESH G. PATEL whose telephone number is (571)272-3640. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinehart H. Mark can be reached on 571-272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nimesh G Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 2111

/Mark Rinehart/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2111